

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application. All claims are independent. This reply is directed to issues that have already been considered by the Examiner; thus there are no new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,432 to Crowley ("Crowley") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,649,924 to Taccardi ("Taccardi"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that the sensor electrodes in Taccardi detect a potential field generated by the excitation wavefront, and thus "couple an electric field to a separate electric potential" (*see*, Office Action, page 2). The Examiner also states that Applicants failed to "show that Taccardi fails to disclose the ability to couple an electric field to a separate electric potential" (*see*, Office Action, page 4).

However, merely coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential is not the extent of the recited element. Claims 1, 2, and 5 instead recite a combination of elements which includes a locator electrode adapted for delivering and/or receiving a current pulse for "coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential *to provide an indication of the location of the catheter*" (emphasis added). The detection of the electric

potential in Taccardi identifies the location of the focus of the excitation wavefront (*see*, Taccardi, col. 4, lines 15-35). There is no discussion in Taccardi regarding use of the potential to determine the location of the catheter. In fact, in order to determine the location of the wavefront focus in the heart tissue using the electrodes on the catheter, the location of the catheter must already be known at the time the potential is detected.

Thus, Taccardi does not teach or suggest, alone or in combination, a catheter having a locator electrode "for delivering and/or receiving a current pulse for coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential to provide an indication of the location of the catheter" as recited in claims 1, 2, and 5. The Examiner further admits that Crowley also does not teach such a feature, since Crowley "does not teach non-contact, floating sensor electrodes" (*see*, Office Action, page 2). For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, and 5 are patentable over Crowley in view of Taccardi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, and 5 are respectfully requested.

Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,005 to Motamedi *et al.* ("Motamedi") in view of Taccardi. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner states that Motamedi does not teach a non-contact electrode, which means that Motamedi does not teach or suggest a combination of elements which includes an electrode for "delivering and/or receiving a current pulse for coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential to provide an indication of the location of the catheter" as recited in claim 3. Further, as discussed above, Taccardi does not teach or suggest a combination of elements which includes an electrode for "delivering and/or receiving a current pulse for coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential to provide an indication of the location of the catheter" as

recited in claim 3. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 3 is patentable over Motamedi in view of Taccardi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 3 is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,641,649 to Walinski *et al.* ("Walinski") in view of Taccardi. Applicants respectfully traverse. The Examiner states that Walenski does not teach a non-contact sensing electrode, which means that Walenski does not teach or suggest a combination of elements which includes an electrode for "delivering and/or receiving a current pulse for coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential to provide an indication of the location of the catheter" as recited in claim 4. Further, as discussed above, Taccardi does not teach or suggest a combination of elements which includes an electrode for "delivering and/or receiving a current pulse for coupling an electric field to a separate electric potential to provide an indication of the location of the catheter" as recited in claim 4. For at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claim 4 is patentable over Walinski in view of Taccardi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

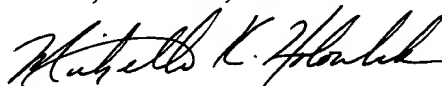
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Michelle K. Holoubek
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 54,179

Date: 11/30/05

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

467222_1.DOC